

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 5, 2004 with Claims 1 through 42. Claims 38-42 were cancelled in the Amendment and Response to Office Action dated December 13, 2005. Claims 21-23 and 29-35 have been withdrawn, without prejudice, due to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-20 are cancelled herein, without prejudice. Claims 24-28, 36 and 37 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement, rejected Claims 1-2, 9-10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Mead et al. (United States Patent No. 5,844,265), and rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over a proposed combination of Mead et al., Ravi et al. (United States Publication No. 2004/0263272), and Brachitta et al. (United States Patent No. 6,130,469).

The Examiner also indicated that Claims 3-8, 17-20, 24-28, 36 and 37 were allowed, and that Claim 16 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants and applicants' undersigned representative acknowledge with deep gratitude the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter.

With the present amendment, all claims except Claims 24-28, 36 and 37 are cancelled or withdrawn. Since these remaining claims were indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable, and that no new issues are raised by this amendment, such that it should be entered and a Notice of Allowance should issue. While Applicants believe that the claims as originally filed are allowable, Applicants have nonetheless canceled the indicated claims without prejudice. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Since all of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., Claims

Since all of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., Claims 24-28, 36 and 37, are in condition for allowance, such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at  
5 the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paul J. Osterstedt  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 37,411  
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP  
1300 Post Road, Suite 205  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
15 (203) 255-6560